

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated February 18, 2010, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claim 4 has been added to the listing of claims and was previously withdrawn from consideration. No new matter is added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing or this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2010

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